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After all, it may be energy misapplied to look in America for new light. Perhaps a more careful search in England might be rewarded by the discovery of a few incidents of value.

In addition to an excellent biography there are included in this useful work many memorials of its young hero. His diary, his letters, and his verses are all of the deepest interest. It is a commonplace in American history that the Constitution was largely the work of college men. Incidentally, the work of Prof. Johnston shows that college graduates performed important services in the war of the Revolution. One sees, too, a pleasant picture of academic life with its cares and its joys. The *Hale Bibliography*, which is appended, will prove of great value to all who are interested in the beginnings of our republic.

Ulysses S. Grant. By Franklin Spencer Edmunds: Philadelphia, George W. Jacobs & Company. Copyright, 1915. Pp. 376.

This volume of the series styled "American Crisis Biographies" is a concise account of the chief characteristics of the renowned Civil War hero, as well as an accurate narrative of the important military events with which he was connected. Those who are not professional students of American history, but who desire to learn something of the men who preserved its greatness, will find in this book much to entertain and instruct them. That other numerous class who have not the leisure to learn the Civil War by reading in detail its battles and sieges, by studying the technical narratives of its great campaigns will, by an examination of this convenient volume, know the progress of the war for the Union and much that is essential about its greatest commander.

In referring to General Grant as the first soldier of the War for Southern Independence, one does not need to disparage the services of his loyal and efficient friends, Sherman and Sheridan, or of George H. Thomas, who was not so close to his affections. Ultimate defeat does not diminish the stature of Robert E. Lee, nor lack of support dim the fame of Beauregard, or of Joseph E. Johnston. They are all enrolled in the register of fame, but Grant is quite unlike any of them.

Though Beauregard found little favor with his superiors, compared with Grant he was thrice fortunate. In the opinion

of his Illinois neighbors and even of his kinsmen Capt. Grant was a person of little merit. In his own judgment he could at least bake bread for the soldiers, because, in the war with Mexico, he had done it with success. In some capacity he was eager to strike a blow for the Union. When he had witnessed the dismal efforts of political officers to drill the volunteers of Illinois, he was convinced that he was equal to the command of a regiment and modestly applied for one. In time he was assigned to the school-boy task of ruling plain sheets of paper. At last some one was reckless enough to make the linear expert, who drew a *per diem* of \$2, a sort of mustering officer. Among the Illinois volunteers was an unmanageable regiment of which few sought the colonelcy. Some one blundered into giving Grant a trial. Thus necessity determined his selection. It did not seem important to any one to gain the services of a graduate of West Point who had had eleven years' experience in the regular army, two of them in bloody warfare. Even Congressman Washburn and Governor Yates, always his loyal friends, did not adequately appreciate the Galena store clerk. However, in his skillful hands the boisterous regiment soon became meek enough. The little tasks assigned him were promptly and satisfactorily performed. Then came Belmont, a small affair to be sure, but large enough to discover a man.

As he had modestly applied for a regiment, so now he diffidently asked of Halleck permission to win a victory. But "Old Brains," as the soldiers called the commander in the West, refused his unmilitary looking subordinate. To Grant's petition were added the entreaties of Commodore Foote. When finally permission was wrung from Halleck, Fort Henry fell, and Donelson soon followed. Then that unenterprising commander promptly claimed both victories as his own and impudently named his reward. Willing enough to recommend for advancement the juniors of Grant, for him there were no commendations, no rewards. Halleck never approved any project of Grant, nor did Frémont during his brief incumbency. The movements in the Vicksburg campaign, planned solely by Grant, were too far advanced for Halleck to countermand. Small armies were rapidly dispersed and on July 4, 1863, a large one was captured. Had the long expected leader arrived? The people of the North

and their great President were sure that he had, but the War Department was still to be convinced, and fully convinced it never was till Appomattox came.

Grant had hardly begun to be known when slanderous tongues and libelous pens attempted to ruin his reputation. Character he had none, at least so far as we can gather from their opinions. Yet if they had examined the annals of the Mexican War, they would have found in the career of Lieut. Grant proofs of sense and heroism. This evidence they did not want, for it would have strangely altered the countenance of the Ulysses Grant of whom they had drawn caricatures for their friends.

Our notice of *The True Ulysses S. Grant*, which appears in this number of the CATHOLIC HISTORICAL REVIEW, emphasizes other phases in the career of the renowned Union leader. The reader who desires to know Gen. Grant in clear outline must examine the pages of Prof. Edmonds. If one might hazard a single criticism it is that the author has in a few instances, doubtless out of the abundance of his knowledge, written of military affairs with a slight excess of detail. If these sections had been a little subordinated, perhaps the personality of Grant would have gained in grandeur.

The True Ulysses S. Grant. By Charles King, Brigadier General, U. S. V.: Philadelphia and London, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1914. Pp. 400.

Those who have travelled the broad expanse of literature on the War for Southern Independence will find upon an examination of this handy volume, that there were on the landscape interesting objects that they had not seen. Many of his countrymen best remember Gen. Grant as a President who showed little sagacity in his exercise of the appointing power; others have been chiefly impressed by his Virginia campaigns with their staggering casualties; still others think of him as the fortunate soldier whose superiors or subordinates won for him an almost unbroken succession of victories in the West. Not a few older Americans think of his career on the Coast, of the hard drinking Captain forced to quit the service for the army's good. The people of Galena remembered the older brother who, unregarded, toiled for his juniors in their country store or, perhaps,